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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicants : Hideyasu MATSUMURA et al.

Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Appl. No. : 10/540,866  
(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/003834)

I.A. Filed : March 22, 2004

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

For : EXPANDABLE RESIN BEADS OF STYRENE-MODIFIED,  
STRAIGHT-CHAIN, AND LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE,  
PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION THEREOF, PRE-  
EXPANDED BEADS AND EXPANDED MOLDED ARTICLE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby bring the following information to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application, which includes information cited and discussed in the specification and the International Search Report issued in connection with International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2004/003834, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. Copies of the International Search Report and the International Preliminary Examination Report were enclosed with the papers when entering the U.S. National Stage on June 27, 2005. The Examiner is invited to review these materials to inspect the relevance indicated during international

examination with respect to the documents cited therein. The following is a list of the documents cited in the above-noted documents:

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. SHO 51-46138, December 7, 1976. Applicants note that this document is cited on page 1 of the specification of the present application;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. SHO 52-10150, March 22, 1977. Applicants note that this document is cited on page 1 of the specification of the present application;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. SHO 58-53003, November 26, 1983. Applicants note that this document is cited on page 2 of the specification of the present application;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. SHO 62-59642, March 16, 1987, together with an English language abstract of the same (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan). Applicants note that this document is cited on page 2 of the specification of the present application and is also cited in the International Search Report;

Japanese Patent No. 2668384, July 4, 1997; Applicants note that this document is cited on page 2 of the specification of the present application;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. HEI 1-284536, November 15, 1989, together with an English language abstract of the same (provided by Patent Abstracts of Japan);

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. SHO 52-76372, June 27, 1977; and


Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. SHO 50-127965, October 8, 1975.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached hereto and are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (p) to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hideyasu MATSUMURA et al.

  
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